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# Record

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## Shine '09 unites over 2,000 volunteers

By Tony Martin  
Associate Editor

More than 2,000 volunteers from the metro Jackson area — many of them Mississippi Baptists — participated March 7 in Transformation Jackson's work day at a number of Jackson public schools.

Transformation Jackson began in 2001 when several church and community leaders joined to bring the first Promise Keepers event to Jackson. This same group of believers, bound only by Christ, started praying that God could bring Christians together across racial and denominational lines to do an even bigger work for the Kingdom in the Jackson Metro Area.

Ronnie Crudup, senior pastor of New Horizon Church International in Jackson, said Transformation Jackson seeks "to shine the light of Christ in the community and be the hands and feet of Christ in mobilizing the Kingdom of God."

Hence, the name of the March 7 project was known as Shine 2009.

Churches participating in the event included Broadmoor Church, Madison; College Hill Church, Jackson; Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church, Jackson; First Church, Jackson; Free Mission Missionary Baptist Church, Jackson; New Dimensions Church, Jackson; New Horizon Church International, Jackson; New Life Fellowship Baptist Church, Jackson; Pinelake Church, Brandon; St. Luther Missionary Baptist Church, Jackson, and Southside Assembly of God, Jackson.

Three area pastors — Stan Buckley of First Church, Jackson, Chip Henderson of Pinelake Church, Brandon, and Rob Futral of Broadmoor Church, Madison — had been meeting informally for some time.

"After Katrina, the three of us met," said Futral. "We saw how the church,



MISSIONS AT HOME — Broadmoor Church, Madison, members (from left) Mary Beth Hammock, Abby Phelps, Kimberly Williams, and Heather Higginbotham take a break from painting at Green Elementary School in Jackson during Shine 2009. (Photo by Tony Martin)

when it had a target, could pull together gifted people who wanted to serve in some way to make a difference.

"Katrina was the target. We saw the needs of our city. God had put it on all of our hearts. 'Why couldn't we do something for Jackson?'"

"At the same time, there were people like Doug Wilson, David Landrum, and Dolphus Weary (board members of Transformation Jackson) that God was working on. The three of us had breakfast with Dolphus Weary and asked, 'What can we do?' At the same time, the needs of our schools were being discussed, and it all just came together."

"We didn't start out necessarily to be at schools," Futral continued. "We just asked, 'Where can we be of service?' The schools just opened up, and we were able to plug in."

Schools are key institutions in our community," said Buckley. "We know our schools are in need of partners to help them achieve their purpose."

Volunteers focused their work on 10 schools — Baker, Barr, Green, Key, Lester, Isable, Poindexter, Raines, and Watkins elementary schools, and Jim Hill High School.

The administration of each school identified building and campus beautification needs to be targeted. Jackson Public Schools (JPS) provided most of the supplies and tools for the work done on JPS campuses. At Green, for example, projects included painting, landscaping, and building a sidewalk.

"I'm here to shine the light of Jesus Christ," said Kimberly Williams, a member of Broadmoor Church who was working at Green. "The schools need all the help that they can get, and I'm here to help."

"If we can shine a light in our community, then maybe we can all come together as one," said Heather Higginbotham, another Broadmoor Church member.

When asked about giving up a Saturday, Abby Phelps, also from Broadmoor, said, "This is my fun. It gives us a way to serve outside of church."

At Isable, a group from First Church, Jackson, was painting. "Missions can be anywhere," said Kristen Tutor, a student at Mississippi College. "It can be across the sea or in your own community. It's just a great way for our church to reach out locally and make a difference. Besides, if you enjoy helping people, it's not a hassle."

"I just wanted to serve," said Pattie Stegall, a member of Pinelake Church working at Barr. "This is just a way for us to be the hands and feet of Christ."

According to Peggy Hampton, JPS executive director for media relations, "I've been a part of JPS for 27 years and I've never seen anything like this. I felt like I'd died and gone to public school heaven."

Hampton recounted that at Poindexter, where Pinelake Church had workers, one church member visited the teachers' lounge. Before the day was out, the Pinelake member acquired and delivered new furniture for the lounge.

Hampton expressed hope that the event would lead to ongoing work between the churches and schools. At this writing, some area churches had returned to a couple of schools to continue work begun Saturday.

Lonnie Edwards, JPS superintendent, offered high praise. "On behalf of the JPS family, I would like to thank Transformation Jackson," he said. "This is an opportunity beyond my imagination."

"My heart is overwhelmed with this kind of gratitude from the community. We look forward to collaboration with Transformation Jackson on this project and others in the future."

Peggy Hampton contributed to this article.

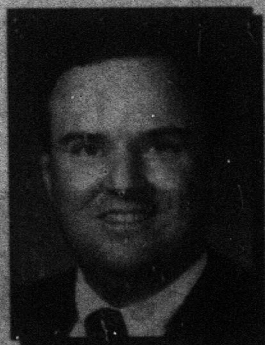


IN SERVICE — Pattie Stegall (left) and an unidentified worker at Barr Elementary School in west Jackson break out painting supplies during Shine 2009. They were part of over 2,000 volunteers who served at ten schools during the area-wide missions service project. (Photo by Tony Martin)





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# Planning for the unthinkable

None of us can imagine witnessing what the people of First Church, Maryville, Ill., saw during their early worship service on March 8.

As Senior Pastor Fred Winters, 45, stood at the pulpit delivering the morning's sermon, a man no one recognized walked to the front and interrupted the sermon. He spoke briefly to Winters, then pulled a .45 caliber semi-automatic handgun and began firing.

The first round struck a Bible being held by Winters, scattering the pages like confetti. At least one of the rounds struck Winters directly in the heart. He walked off the elevated platform and collapsed about halfway down an aisle of the 500-seat worship center.

When the assailant's gun jammed after four shots, he drew a knife and stabbed himself and two male church members who attempted to subdue him. The gunman and one of the men remain hospitalized in serious condition, while the other man was treated and released.

Winters, who was pronounced dead at a local hospital, leaves behind a wife and two young daughters.

News reports indicate the alleged gunman, Terry Joe Sedlacek, brought three 10-round clips of ammunition with him to the church — enough to cause mass carnage with the large caliber, rapid-reloading handgun he was using. That the gun jammed after only four shots, thus denying him his apparent

intention to become a mass murderer, can be properly described as a miracle.

Coincidentally, an August 2008 article in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch newspaper (Maryville is about 20 miles east of St. Louis) featured Sedlacek's battle with Lyme Disease. His mother described him as suffering from brain lesions and mental illness as a result of battling the disease through years of missed diagnoses and failed pharmaceutical regimens.

Neighbors told reporters that Sedlacek tended to exhibit erratic behavior but was not known to carry weapons.

Sedlacek has been charged with first-degree murder and aggravated battery. Preliminary reports indicate he does not have a prior criminal record.

Winters led the church to grow from the 30 members who were there when he arrived in 1987, to more than 1,200 members today. He served two terms as president of the Illinois State Baptist Association — the equivalent of the Mississippi Baptist Convention — and his church was near the top in annual gifts to the Cooperative Program.

A good man has been struck down, and his family and church have been left to grieve their great loss.

Could such tragedy descend on a Mississippi Baptist church? Of course it could.

Churches in general are places that count ease of access, openness, and a welcoming atmosphere as qualities that help them reach out to their communities. Almost anyone can enter one of our churches on any given Sunday. That's who we are.

Every Mississippi Baptist church should have an emergency plan for dealing with an assault such as was visited on the Illinois Baptist church. Along with protecting the children entrusted to us from sexual predators, such planning should be of the highest priority.

How does a church go about planning for such an unthinkable tragedy? It's uncomfortable to contemplate such a thing happening at our church. It's distasteful. In our time, however, it's necessary.

Many of our churches have members who are involved with law enforcement and emergency services agencies. Asking them where to start would be an excellent first step. If no church members are available, there's probably not a police chief or sheriff who would turn down such a request for help. Finally, there are professional consulting companies that can assist, for a fee.

Every church should have an up-to-date list of emergency contact numbers. Churches have a notoriously large number of entry points, so monitoring all doors or even locking some of the more remote entryways may be a good idea. A "Lord's House Committee," a group of church members who patrol the premises with walkie-talkies during times of activities, is a practice already in use in several Mississippi Baptist churches.

Above all, don't sit around and do nothing on the assumption that it can't happen at your church. The members of First Church, Maryville, Ill. — only the latest to experience heartbreak on a massive scale — might have something to say about that.

## GUEST OPINION:



### Toward better language

By Kelly Boggs, editor  
Louisiana Baptist Message

Hatch received approval for his club at his high school. On club rush day, 100 people joined. Soon after, the website went up and now the No Cussing Club boasts more than 20,000 members from all over the globe.

Hatch's club is voluntary and has as its motto, "Leave people better than you found them."

I agree with him that public discourse is too prolific with profanity. Movies and television programs intended for general audiences once contained no cursing or sexual innuendo. Now you are hard-pressed to find mass media without crude content. As a result, cussing has trickled down and stained everyday discourse.

"The foolish and wicked practice of profane cursing and swearing is a vice so mean and low," said George Washington, "that every person of sense and character detests and despises it."

I am quite certain our first president would be disappointed at the proliferation of profanity that has occurred in the nation he helped found.

Some, it seems, have confused Hatch's effort as an attack on their First Amendment right to use potty words in public. These folks' ignorance of the U.S. Constitution is surpassed only by their puny and uncreative vocabularies.

In order for freedom of speech to be in play, the government must be the agent attempting to censor communication — like members of Congress wanting to resurrect the so-called Fairness Doctrine in an effort to muzzle conservative talk radio. A teenager starting a club to discourage cussing is not a freedom of speech issue.

After all, membership in his club is voluntary, so why

has Hatch been the target of so much vitriol? Why are so many proponents of profanity threatened by a voluntary club designed to promote the use of clean language? It seems like a bit of overreaction to me.

If you take a look at Hatch's detractors through the lens of Scripture, you gain some perspective. "For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart," the Bible says (Matthew 12:34). Scripture also states, "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witnesses, slanders" (Matthew 15:19).

According to the Bible, speech — as well as action — is a matter of the heart. An undisciplined heart produces an unrestrained vocabulary as well as erratic behavior. Those attacking Hatch for his "No Cussing Club" overreact because their hearts, like their vocabulary, are out of control.

The No Cussing Club is not about the infrequent slip of the tongue. McKay Hatch is calling attention to the unfettered and unrestrained use of profanity that degrades and sullies our culture. For that he deserves accolades, not attacks.

The Louisiana Baptist Message is the official news journal of the Louisiana Baptist Convention. Boggs' commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.

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# Sudan aid in jeopardy after leader indicted

NASHVILLE (BP) — As many as 13 humanitarian aid groups are being expelled from Sudan after the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague issued an arrest warrant March 4 for Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, who is accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity in connection with fighting in western Sudan's Darfur region.

U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-Va.), chair of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, has appealed to U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to appoint a high-profile, high-caliber special envoy to Sudan.

Franklin Graham, president of Samaritan's Purse humanitarian organization who was in Sudan when the arrest warrant was issued, has urged U.S. President Barack Obama to appoint an envoy and work toward full diplomatic relations with Sudan.

Sudan ordered 10 aid groups to leave the country on March 4 and an official of one group told Reuters news service another three groups also would be ordered to leave.

A United Nations (U.N.) representative and reporters the Sudanese government's humanitarian aid Commission said aid groups' registrations had been revoked and had given them a list of assets the government was seizing. Sudanese security forces reportedly are taking computers and other property from aid agencies in Khartoum and Darfur.

Aid groups have protested at their expulsion would leave more than two million Sudanese people without necessities like shelter, food, and clean water the groups are providing. "Affected NGOs

(non-governmental organizations) are the main providers of life-saving humanitarian services, such as water, food, health and sanitation" in the region," the U.N. representative said.

Bashir is charged with seven criminal counts — the first time the international court has accused a sitting head of state of war crimes, Rep. Wolf's letter said. The charges included "murdering, exterminating, raping, torturing and forcibly transferring large numbers of civilians and the pillaging of their property" in ongoing turmoil that has claimed an estimated 300,000 Sudanese lives and displaced 2.7 million people since the Darfur conflict began in 2003, according to U.N. estimates.



al-Bashir

Wolf's letter mentioned a British Broadcasting Corporation news report in which a man forcibly recruited into Sudan's army was ordered to burn Darfuri villages, poison wells, kill all the women, and rape girls younger than 14.

"The killing and devastation go on," he said in the letter. "The people cry out for justice and look to America for leadership."

Franklin Graham said in a March 5 press statement that he met with Bashir the morning of March 4 to discuss religious freedom, human rights, and the Darfur situation, then flew to the capital of South Sudan to



**GONE IN SECONDS** — A Christian church in Tali, Sudan, was completely destroyed by a powerful bomb of unknown origin in the continuing nightmare in which Christians in the violence-torn African country find themselves in their struggle to survive. The International Criminal Court recently issued an arrest warrant for the Muslim nation's president, Omar al-Bashir, for war crimes and crimes against humanity. (BP file photo courtesy of Frontline Fellowship)

meet with the country's first vice president, Salva Kiir.

"We openly discussed the dangers the entire country faces in light of the ICC judgment and agree that peace in Sudan is far more important than the need to arrest the president," Graham said. "While President al-Bashir should be brought to justice, [Vice] President Kiir and I share grave concerns about the real and dangerous effects of the action."

The International Criminal Court warrant was issued as the meeting with Kiir concluded, Graham said. "Millions of lives throughout Sudan, not just Darfur, will be at risk if the already-fragile government is destabilized and the Comprehensive Peace Agreement unravels," the statement said. "The already-desperate situation could turn disastrous."

"Since the CPA was signed, there have been significant gains for peace," Graham added.

As unpleasant as it may be to deal with an indicted criminal, the world cannot afford to let this progress unravel. Now is a time for

Christians worldwide to pray for peace in Sudan."

The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) has approved three resolutions on Sudan in the past decade. Messengers to the 2006 SBC annual meeting approved a resolution describing the conflict in Darfur as "genocide" and urging Khartoum to disband militias in the region, international trials for "perpetrators of the atrocities" in Darfur, and multinational aid to the area.

In 2000 and 2001, messengers adopted resolutions calling for the White House and Congress to pressure the Sudanese regime to halt the "atrocities and ongoing violations of religious freedom" that marked another genocidal effort primarily affecting southern Sudan.

The SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission has called for stronger sanctions against the Sudanese regime and, while questioning the ICC's jurisdictional authority, commended the effort to hold Bashir accountable.



## MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

### THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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**YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!**

*Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:*

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

*"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)*

*If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.*

## Assisted suicides rising

WASHINGTON (BP) — Oregon established a record in 2008 for most deaths by physician-assisted suicide since legalizing the practice, according to its annual report. The Oregon Department of Human Services reported 60 people committed suicide last year using lethal doses of drugs prescribed by doctors. The total far surpassed the previous yearly high, which was 49 in 2007. Oregon has recorded 401 such deaths since its Death With Dignity Act took effect in late 1997. This latest report showed only two of the 60 people who committed suicide with the assistance of a doctor were referred to a psychologist or psychiatrist before receiving a lethal prescription. In addition, only three patients said they experienced inadequate pain control or expressed concern about it. One-third of those who used assisted suicide expressed concern about burdening family, friends, or caregivers, and the median duration of the patient-physician relationship was just eight weeks. All but two of the 60 were at least 55 years of age, and there was an equal number of males and females. All but one were white and 31 were married.

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

Dedication ceremonies for Patterson Place, the new adult lodge at Camp Garaywa in Clinton, are held Mar. 15 just prior to the start of the 1999 WMU annual meeting at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton.

### 20 years ago

An invitation-only gathering of Southern Baptist conservatives in Atlanta is attended by four Mississippi pastors: Gerald Harris, Colonial Heights, Jackson; Terry Williams, Meadowview Church, Starkville; Ken Alford, Morrison Heights, Clinton; and Gibbie McMillan, South 28th Ave. Church, Hattiesburg.

### 50 years ago

Sunday School spoils children, according to Marcus Barth, a Chicago theologian. All children hear is "Mama loves me, Papa loves me, teacher loves me, and God loves me," Barth says. "This develops self-centered young egotists."



# BIBLIOPHER

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Clue: S = F

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John One: One

## KEEP IT SIMPLE!

Even though folks in our state and across our nation are better educated and no doubt have more intellectual capacity than some in years gone by, it is still vitally important that we keep it simple. It is important to keep the Gospel presentation simple so that people can grasp and respond to the gift that God has given us in His Son, Jesus.

Not long ago this conversation was overheard: Two ladies were talking and one was explaining what a terrible thing had happened to their house. A storm had hit and she said with great exclamation the roof on the front of the house blew off. Then she added that the garage blew off. The other lady, responding with great intensity, said, "Did you call 911?" The first lady said, "No, I did not know their number."

Now please understand that I am not making fun of the lady for not knowing how to call 911. In the trauma of the house's roof blowing away and the emotional swirl of wondering whether you are going to be alive in the next few seconds, you may not even be able to remember your own name much less how to call 911. This may be the difficulty with someone understanding how they can personally know the saving power of God in Jesus Christ. They may be in an emotional trauma and they may be so



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

spiritually disoriented that they do not know how to call on the name of Jesus.

I think about the Ethiopian eunuch in the book of Acts. He had been to Jerusalem to the worship service and was traveling home reading the Word of God. Yet when Philip asked him, "Do you understand what you are reading?" he said, "How can I except some man should guide me?" Although he was reading one of the clearest presentations of the sacrificial work of Jesus for our sins, he was missing it. He did not know how to call 911.

Sometimes when we preach or share a witness, we get to talking about things that are peripheral or explain things that are so complicated that the person still does not know how to trust Jesus. I have heard people, and sometimes I guess it has been me, presenting a witness for Christ in such a complicated and convoluted fashion that nobody would understand what to do. We seem to become like professional weather people when we present our witness.

Sometimes I will turn on the weather to find out tomorrow's forecast only to see some weather person talking about a front that is coming in to the northeast and that Washington and Oregon are going to be del-

uged with rain. In addition, there is an El Nino affect taking place in California. New York City is going to be covered with snow. All I want to know is what is going to happen in my hometown tomorrow.

Here is the simplicity of our message though it can be packaged 10,000 different ways.

• God loves you and has a plan for your life.

• We all have sinned and we have muddled and messed up the great plan of God for us.

• Jesus came and gave His life so that we could be saved and our life could be put back on track and the will of God fulfilled in us.

• By faith, you can then trust Jesus, turn from your sinful ways in repentance, allow Jesus to come into your heart, set up His home in you, and live through you. You can trust Him by faith right now and live with Him forever.

You may say, "Well, that's too simple. It has to be more complicated than that." It would be more complicated if it were man's doing, but it is not. God took all the difficulties on Him and offers the gift of everlasting life to us. Trust what He tells you and you can be saved. You may say, "Well, what do I say

and what do I do?" One man in the Bible simply cried out to God and said, "God be merciful to me a sinner." Another man, the Apostle Paul, cried out to the Lord during his Damascus Road experience and said, "Lord, what will thou have me to do?" Another man taking his last breath on this earth looked over to the cross where Jesus was hanging and dying for the man's sins, and he simply said, "Lord, remember me when thou comest to thy Kingdom."

In every case, there was a life transforming experience. A new person was born into the family of God. In each case, it was the heart of a person turning from sin to the Savior and the Savior did His mighty work. Today is a good day if you have never done it and did not know how, pause and call out to Jesus.

He is God's 911 emergency response team.

The author can be contacted at [jfutral@mbcb.org](mailto:jfutral@mbcb.org).

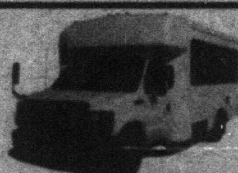
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**NORTH COLUMBIA BAPTIST Church**, Columbia, Miss., is seeking a full-time minister of music/education. Please email resumes to [ncbc1@hotmail.com](mailto:ncbc1@hotmail.com) or mail them to P. O. Box 271, Columbia, MS 39429.

**ENON BAPTIST CHURCH, JAYESS, MS** is accepting resumes for the position of part-time minister of music. Please send resumes to minister of music search committee, c/o Vanessa King 397 Jayess Rd., Jayess, MS 39641.

**IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH** in Vicksburg, MS seeking individual for full-time Minister of Music. Please send resume to Immanuel Baptist Church, attn: personnel committee, 6949 Hwy 61 South, Vicksburg, MS 39180 or email to [IBC\\_personnel@yahoo.com](mailto:IBC_personnel@yahoo.com).

**HOLCOMB BAPTIST CHURCH**, Holcomb, Miss., is seeking a part-time youth minister. Please send resume to youth search committee, c/o HBC, 12135 Hwy. 8 West, Grenada, MS 38901.



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[www.msbbaptistfoundation.org](http://www.msbbaptistfoundation.org)  
TO COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION

The Mississippi Baptist Foundation's Scholarship Ministry provides needs-based supplemental financial assistance to Mississippi students who are pursuing a degree at a Mississippi Baptist college or a Southern Baptist seminary. For more information about the MBF Scholarship Ministry, please visit our website, [www.msbbaptistfoundation.org](http://www.msbbaptistfoundation.org). Scholarship applications for the 2009-2010 academic year are available on our website. Completed applications must be received in the MBF office by April 30.



**ANYONE INTERESTED IN AN ALASKAN Cruise** with Dr. Charles Stanley, InTouch Ministries, July 10-17, 2009, contact Rev. Larry Duncan, Salem Baptist Church, Lake, MS 601-775-8272 or Elizabeth Smith 601-507-1302 for brochure or details.

**LIMA PERU MISSION VOLUNTEERS** needed: April 24 - May 1. VBS, Evangelism, construction workers, preachers, singers needed for IMB mission project. Call Gary or Norma Bowlin at 601-276-7245 or 601-810-0810 or email [garybowlin@bell-south.net](mailto:garybowlin@bell-south.net) for further details.

**NORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY**, Inc., old Bibles rebound. Also, church bulletins and hymnals. For more information call 662-453-7424 or fax us at 662-455-6743.

**CABIN IN GATLINBURG FOR RENT:** 2 bedrm 2 bath, full kitchen. Great view of National park, \$95.00/night. Call for information 281-855-4469 or 832-922-0401/0141. Email [pdw4760@att.net](mailto:pdw4760@att.net).

**ALASKA TOUR: INCLUDING INTEREST** points across U.S. & Canada, 31-fantastic days, 8/15 - 9/14, 2009. Alaska experienced escorts with 15-years touring Alaska. 2009 deluxe tour bus! No flying. Plenty of happy references! Request free details. Geri-Gadder Tours: 1-800-982-2478.

**PASSION PLAY OF OBERAMMERGAU.** Visit the majestic Alps of Germany, Austria, and Switzerland June 21 - July 1, 2010, (only one weekend). See the world famous passion play. Contact Rev. Bill Stanford, 601-924-3747.

**FULL-TIME MINISTER TO CHILDREN & families:** Clearview Baptist Church, Birmingham, Alabama is accepting resumes for the position of full-time Minister to Children & Families. Send resume to Clearview Baptist Church,



that I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light, and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

March 12, 2009

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

## ADOPT-A-SUMMER MISSIONARY MISSISSIPPI BSU

**DEADLINE:  
MAY 15!**

**PASTORS**

**WMU LEADERS**

**You can help by assisting students in many ways:**

**Spiritual** - Praying for and remembering these students.

**Physical** - Helping students with small needs such as toiletries, gift cards, trips, etc. Some churches have involved their VBS during the summer, their children, and their workers, in various support activities of Summer Missionaries.

Contact Peggy Powell in Collegiate Ministry, 601-292-3299, 1-800-748-1651 or ppowell@mbcb.org

## Teaching about missions starts with the Cooperative Program

Download 8 Sunday School lessons for children **FREE!**  
[www.cpmiissions.net/2003/shop/products.asp?id=1](http://www.cpmiissions.net/2003/shop/products.asp?id=1)  
Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on "Teamwork works! CP Children's Resource"

### Lesson Titles:

- Introduction to the Cooperative Program • Share the Good News Everywhere
- Missionaries Serve God Around the World • Missions in North America
- Preparing Future Missionaries, Pastors and Other Church Leaders
- Living to Please God • Helping Retired Ministers and Widows
- Sharing with Others about the Cooperative Program

For more info: Stewardship Department, 601-292-3347 or srobinson@mbcb.org



## FamilyFEST<sup>SM</sup> Natchez, Mississippi July 18-23, 2009

FamilyFEST<sup>SM</sup> is a pre-packaged missions trip for families, adult teams and student teams. It is ministry driven. This FamilyFEST is a partnership between national WMU<sup>®</sup> Mississippi Baptist Convention departments (MS wMu, the Men's Ministry, and Adams Baptist Association and local participating churches).

### REGISTRATION DEADLINES

	EARLY BIRD: April 18	REGULAR: May 18
Individual	\$125	\$140
Family of 2	\$225	\$255
Family of 3	\$325	\$370
Family of 4	\$400	\$460
Family of 5 or more	\$500	\$575

### TO REGISTER:

**CALL**  
(205) 991-8100  
**OR VISIT**  
[www.wmu.com/volunteerconnection](http://www.wmu.com/volunteerconnection)

State contacts: Tammy Anderson (MS wMu) or Don Gann (Men's Ministry) 1-800-748-1651

## STUDENT SPEAKERS TOURNAMENT FOR GRADES 10-12

Participants need to inform associational offices so associational tournaments can be scheduled. Association finalists must submit speech manuscripts to the Discipleship and Family Ministry (D&FM) Department by April 14, 2009, in order to compete in the state scholarship Tournament.

### 2009 State Student Speakers Tournament

**April 25, 9:30 a.m.**  
**Park Place BC, Pearl**

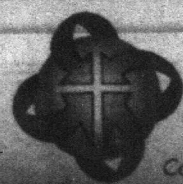
Contact D&FM for info: 601-292-3286

## CABIN LEADERS NEEDED AT GARAYWA FOR SUMMER

Garaywa Camp and Conference Center is home to hundreds of girls each summer, and we need cabin leaders to help it be a successful camping season! If you are a college female who loves children, has a heart for missions, and wants to serve the Lord this summer

### APPLY QUICKLY.

For FAQ, a list of qualifications, and an application, visit [http://www.mbc.org/business\\_services/camps/cg/staff.aspx](http://www.mbc.org/business_services/camps/cg/staff.aspx) or call Erica Harms at 601-292-3315.



## REFRESH

*Come unto me, all you who are weary ... and I will give you rest ... Learn from me, for I am gentle hearted.*

### FOCUSING ON KINGDOM ESSENTIALS

**May 30, 2009**

**9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

**Temple BC, Hattiesburg**

**A conference for congregational leaders seeking spiritual strength and refreshment so that they may serve more effectively in the Kingdom of Christ.**

### CONFERENCE HEADLINERS

Don Wilton - Keynote Speaker

T.W. Hunt - Spiritual Growth for Leaders

Tony Merida - Sunday Sermon Preparation

Lavon Gray - Worship: Then, Now and Forever

Tommy King - Balancing Bivocational Ministry and Lifestyle

For more information, contact Laura Marler in Mission Strategy at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 800-748-1651, ext. 231, 601-292-3231, or E-mail: [lmaller@mbcb.org](mailto:lmaller@mbcb.org).

### Missions Extravaganza for Preschoolers and Children

1st-6th grade children who are coming with their parents are invited to participate in a Missions Extravaganza. Child care will be provided for all preschoolers who are coming with their parents, by the Preschool Ministry Department at Temple Baptist Church. There is no cost for the child care or the Missions Extravaganza, however preregistration is required. The deadline to register is Friday, May 15, 2009. To register for the Missions Extravaganza or child care, please call Diane Howell in the Preschool Ministry Department at Temple Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, at 601-450-3069.



# 2009 PRESCHOOL/CHILDREN'S MINISTER RETREAT

Garaywa Camp and Conference Center

Monday, April 27 and Tuesday, April 28

Cost \$45, Registration begins at 1 p.m. at Patterson Place

Charity Gwaltney - FBC, Starkville

Ron Falvey - FBC, Madison

Chuck Myers - Worship - Raymond Road BC

Questions? Contact Don Gann or Deanna Vail at 601-292-3335 or 1-800-748-1651 or dgann@mbcb.org or dvail@mbcb.org

FOLLOW THE LEADER

## SINGLE Life Conference

Conferences begin at 6:30 and end at 8:30 p.m.  
(Free meal provided.)

Thursday  
March 19  
FBC, Sumrall

- Five Love Languages for Singles, Glenn Shoys, MBCB
- Singleness with a Purpose, Becky Brown, Recording Artist and Author, Richland
- For info on either of these conferences, contact the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department

## Church Facilities & Furnishings

Workshop

March 17, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Parkway Baptist Church

**POSTPONED**



## Growing Churches Conference

"... for the training of the saints in the work of the ministry, to build up the body of Christ ..."  
Ephesians 4:12 (HCSB)

Friday & Saturday

July 24-25, 2009

Harrisburg Baptist Church

4675 Cliff Gookin Blvd.

Tupelo, MS 38801

Questions call: Lee Association: 662-566-1700 or MBCB Discipleship & Family Ministry Department, 1-800-748-1651

Sponsored by MS Baptist Convention & North MS Baptist Associations

## Young Pastors Retreat

The Basics for Effective Ministry

LAKE TIAK O'KHAI, LOUISVILLE  
March 26-27, 2009

The retreat brings together young pastors to focus on the essentials of ministry and good pastoral work in today's environment. Opportunities will be provided to network with other young pastors from across the state and dialogue about current realities in ministry. Plan to attend for your benefit and the benefit of other young pastors.

Leaders: Steve Stone and Alan Woodward



## VBS CHURCH LEADERSHIP TRAINING

### PACK YOUR BAGS!

Preregister now to receive an inflatable koala. Be the first to preregister and receive a GIANT inflatable kangaroo!

April 14

Calvary BC, Macon  
Clarksdale BC, Clarksdale  
Siloam BC, Meadville

April 16

Gaston BC, Booneville  
Parkway BC, Kosciusko  
Temple West BC, Hattiesburg

April 21

FBC, Belzoni  
FBC, Oxford

For more information contact Angie Boydston at aboydstun@mbcb.org or Lee Ann Boykin at laboykin@mbcb.org or call 1-800-748-1651, ext. 292, or 601-292-3292

6:30 p.m. Worship Rally  
7-9 p.m. Conferences

### CONFERENCES

- Preschool, Children, Youth and Adult
- Pastors, Evangelism and General Officers
- Children's Rotation: Missions, Music, Crafts and Snacks
- Club VBS: Truth Trek



20

FOOD AND

Saturday, March 20  
Hattiesburg, MS  
For contact

Saturday, March 20  
Hattiesburg, MS  
10:00 a.m.  
For contact

Special Guest

JULY 13-14



SUMMER  
COSTS AND

Students and Adults

NO REGISTRATION

DEADLINE

For a registration form  
1-800-748-1651,  
download forms from



# 2009 Family Celebrations

AND ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY!

**May 9**  
**Baptist Association Family Life Center**  
 Contact information: neshababaptistassociation@yahoo.com or  
 call 601-656-1820

**May 16**  
**Attala Baptist Church, Kosciusko**  
**8 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**  
 Contact information: 662-289-4293 or E-mail Attala Baptist  
 Association at abaomdbw@bellsouth.net

**Guests:** Ventriloquist: Judy Marby, Destin, Fla.  
 Juggling, fire blowing, magic and more with Robert Day, Byram



## STUDENT WEEKS GRADES 7-12

### NO LIMITS

Jesus said, "Didn't I tell you that  
 if you believed, you would see  
 the glory of God?" John 11:40

**May 30-June 3**  
**Gary Permenter and**  
**Randy Tolleson**  
 William Carey University, Hattiesburg

**June 3-7**  
**Ben Skipper and**  
**Opie Thomas**  
 William Carey University, Hattiesburg

**June 11-15**  
**Jon Daniels and**  
**Will Reedy**  
 Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Kosciusko

**June 18-22**  
**Chris Thomas and**  
**Brian Dedmon**  
 Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain

**June 22-26**  
**Grant Stegall and**  
**Kevin Williams**  
 Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain

STUDENT WEEKS PROGRAM INFO:  
 Huey Dedmon hdedmon@mbcb.org  
 Student Ministry Specialist  
 1-800-748-1651, ext. 320  
 601-292-3320 OR  
 Lee Ann Boykin lboykin@mbcb.org  
 601-292-3292  
 1-800-748-1651, ext. 292

## ignite

MS Super Summer 09

JULY 13 - 17, 2009 • MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE

**13-17, 2009 MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE**

### SPEAKER

**Matt Kerlin**

Birmingham, AL



### WORSHIP LEADER

**Dave Hunt**

Nashville, TN

## SUPER SUMMER 2009 S AND REGISTRATION SCHEDULE

and Adult Leaders - \$200 if registered by May 1  
 \$250 if registered May 2 - June 3  
 REGISTRATIONS OR REFUNDS ACCEPTED AFTER JUNE 3.

### DEADLINES STRICKLY ENFORCED!

For a registration CD Packet, contact René Edwards at  
 601-292-3317, ext. 284, or E-mail redwards@mbcb.org. You can also  
 learn more from our Web site: [mbcb.org](http://mbcb.org) or [mssupersummer.com](http://mssupersummer.com)

## MPF

MISSISSIPPI  
 PARENTS  
 FELLOWSHIP

April 3-4

Garaywa

## MMF

MISSISSIPPI  
 MISSIONARY  
 FELLOWSHIP

April 4

Garaywa

For info:  
 Mississippi WMU  
 601-292-3317



## Pray this day for...

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

*"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly as I should."*  
Colossians 4:2-4

Pray for teams from: (1) **MSU BSU** serving in Columbia in university evangelism, 13th-20th; (2) **Clary BC, Florence**, working in youth ministry and evangelism in Vancouver, 14th-21st; (3) **Calvary BC, Hattiesburg**, doing evangelism in Washington D.C., 14th-20th; (4) **First BC, Bude**, assisting missionaries in Senegal, West Africa, 16th-27th.

Pray for Manipur, India. Several people and churches have a relationship with a worker in this area. Manipur is experiencing a tumultuous time and Christians are being targeted for violence.

Pray for teams from: (1) **MSU BSU** in university evangelism in Mexico, 15th-21st; (2) **Brooksville BC** as they do outreach in Thailand, 16th-29th; (3) **Richmond BC, Saitillo**, doing construction and landscaping at Midwestern seminary. Hubert Ladner, **Gumpond BC, Lumberton**, will be developing the landscaping plan, 16th-20th.

Pray that God will call the leaders of our nation, state and local governments to seek His face and will in the decisions they make. Pray for the citizens of our country to turn to God for the direction of their lives.

Pray for teams from: (1) **USM BSU**, serving in a new church start in Baltimore, 13th-20th; (2) **Grace BC, Philadelphia**, leading VBS in Honduras, 16th-21st; (3) **Union BC, Meridian**, doing church planting in the Dominican Republic, 16th-22nd; (4) **Broadway BC, Southaven**, doing evangelism and construction in Bolivia, 15th-22nd.

Please pray (1) for new workers who are joining a brand new group of young, energetic families who have a great desire to see Aegean Turks come to the Lord and for the glory of God to spread in their city; (2) that workers will acquire language and culture skills for ministry.

(1) Church Library Ministry Retreat, Garaywa, 19th-21st (CS); (2) Pray for a team led by **Holly BC, Corinth**, as they do resort missions in Montana, 18th-23rd; (3) Pray for a team led by **Holly BC, Corinth**, as they do resort missions in Montana, 18th-23rd.

Each year, increasing numbers of West African teens leave village life behind and head to metropolitan areas in search of more lucrative work or to continue their education. Pray that as these young people live in the city, they will have the opportunity to hear about Jesus and give their hearts to Him.

Pray for a member of **First BC, McComb**, Jad Khalaf, spending time in Peru working in the area of church planting, March 7th-April 20th.

(1) Young Pastor's Retreat, Lake Tiaf O'Khata, Louisville, 26th-27th (P/LD); (2) Every Thursday night, in Lisbon, Portugal, a small group of teenagers gather together to share a meal and have a spiritual discussion. Most have no spiritual background. Lift up journeyman Emily Rose as she reaches out to teens here.

Pray for: (1) Ethnic Women's Summit, Garaywa (wMu); (2) a team from **Lafayette/Marshall Association** serving orphan children in Southeast Asia, 12th-21st; (3) a team from **Morrison Heights BC, Clinton**, as ministering to college and youth in Hawaii, 12th-23rd; (4) **Calvary BC, Hattiesburg**, in evangelism in Washington D.C., 14th-20th.

Pray for Charles Corey, **New Hope BC, Gulfport**, and director of Center for International Seaman and Truckers as he travels to Guatemala for missions, 23rd-31st.

Pray for teams from: (1) **Faith BC, Meridian**, doing basketball clinics and homeless ministry in Alaska, 12th-22nd; (2) **William Carey BSU** doing music and evangelism in Macedonia, 13th-21st; (3) **East Central BSU** in evangelism and service in Kansas, 13th-21st; (4) **FBC, Corinth**, children and construction work in Ecuador, 13th-21st.

J.C. and Martha Prather and Gene and Willie Ree are going to be the coordinators for construction projects at Midwestern Seminary for Mississippi volunteers this summer. Pray as they prepare to coordinate the volunteer work.

## STATE MINISTRY ASSISTANTS

### CONFERENCE

MARCH 30-31, 2009

GARAYWA • CLINTON

MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

*"Who knows but you have come to this royal position for such a time as this?"*

Esther 4:14

### BREAKOUT SESSIONS

- Kay Arthur's "Lord Teach Me to Pray" Overview - Ann Rials
- Beth Moore's "Believe in God" Overview - Jerebeth Mehler
- Cyndi Wood's "The Frazzled Female" - Sandi Komurke
- "Help! I'm New at This!" - Linda Jenkins
- "Rendering Unto Caesar..." - Sarah Kirby
- "So You are NOT a Size 4" - Laura Marler
- "Paint for the Barn" (Makeup and Skin Care) - Shirley Sisk
- Actual Time of Prayer - Robbie Linley
- Planning for your Retirement - Robin Nichols
- Mississippi Baptist Convention Resource - Anne Martin

SPEAKER  
ELAINE RHODES



WORSHIP  
SUSAN WILSON



DETAILS IN BROCHURE

SPONSORED BY THE PASTOR/LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

### Send an MK a card!

5-3-99 MISS ADRIANN S.

Parents: Jerry & Kelly, Last Frontier

5-5-00 MR. PATRICK N.

Parents: J & J, Restricted

5-14-99 MR. JACKSON HOLEMAN

Parents: Jeff & Liesa, South America

5-14-90 MISS KELSEY HORTON

Parents: Francis & Angie  
Baptist Global Response

5-15-96 MR. PATRICK AUSTIN

Parents: Arnold & Susie  
South America

5-16-91

MR. KONNER HORTON

Parents: Francis & Angie  
Baptist Global Response

5-16-96 MR. MICAH J. PEACOCK

Parents: Kevin & Brenda  
Middle America & the Caribbean

5-16-00 MISS ADDIE GRACE PUTNAM

Parents: Tracy & Genie  
Central & Eastern Europe

5-20-88 MR. JOHN R. McCALL

Parents: Dennis & Margaret  
CESA

05/22/00

MISS KATHRYN CARPENTER

Parents: James and Tracy  
Restricted

5-23-01

MISS ANNA CLAIRE

Parents: Jim & Penni  
Last Frontier

5-24-91 MISS LAURA PURL

Parents: John & Amy  
Central & Eastern Europe

5-31-02 MR. SAMUEL SIMPSON

Parents: Adam & Kristen  
Central & Eastern Europe

FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to:  
Child's name, Parent's name,  
MBCB wMu MK Birthdays,  
PO Box 530,  
Jackson MS 39205

PLEASE NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the wMu.

# HOUSE TOPS

## Gend

OPELIKA, A Standing before about 20 pastory leaders in A Stith introduced which he said mo Baptists don't w — homosexuality

"Churches v avoid this issu with it as I used t condemning," who is the South Convention's nat gist for gender is

The mid-Janua the Tuskegee Lee AL, was the first s to which Stith h accepting the pos to change the m associational direc asked him to spea es could learn ho sexuals and their

In sharing his he had been "or was contemptuo als but when G the matter 15 y had to make a c

"I realized a l was a reaction to activism in the ment... I didn't k sands of men an whose hearts we gle they didn't didn't understand

"My attitude just a choice. W always a choice, get to choose wh



MARCH 12, 2009



# Under strategist: 'Sometimes the dragon chooses you'

KA, AL. (BP) —

before a room of pastors and ministers in Alabama, Bob produced a topic with said most Southern don't want to deal sexuality.

ches would rather his issue and deal I used to, harsh and ing," said Stith, the Southern Baptist on's national strate-

der issues.

id-January meeting of

gee Lee Association in Opelika,

ne first such session in the nation

Stith has been invited since

the position in 2006. In an effort

the mindset Stith described,

onal director of missions Bill King

a to speak so pastors and church-

learn how to minister to homo-

and their families.

ring his story, Stith confessed

een "one of those guys" who

emptuous toward homosexu-

when God broke his heart on

er 15 years ago, he knew he

ake a change.

ized a lot of what I had done

ction to what I had seen of gay

in the media and entertain-

didn't know there were thou-

men and women and families

arts were breaking for a strug-

didn't ask for and one they

nderstand," Stith said.

attitude was it's a choice; it's

oice. What I learned was sin is

choice...but you don't always

oose what temptation you get.



Stith

You don't always choose the dragon. Sometimes the dragon chooses you."

His idea that "thousands" were struggling was an underestimate, Stith said. He found that studies show at least 1.4% of the U.S. population — perhaps more than 4.2 million people — deals with homosexuality.

Factor in parents, siblings, other relatives, and friends, and the number of people struggling with the issue increases exponentially, Stith said. "That's a conservative estimate," he said. "What are we doing as Christians to meet the needs these people have?"

In the book, *UnChristian*, authors David Kinnaman and Gabe Lyons pointed out that 91% of unchurched Americans think the church is anti-homosexual. "Not [just] that we believe it's sin but that [the church] is anti-homosexual," Stith said, "and 80% of church young adults felt the same way."

He said young Americans who attend church also feel the church is not equipping them to minister effectively to their homosexual co-workers. "The homosexual community knows we think it's a sin, but do they know we care?" Stith asked.

King said he hopes pastors will take to heart Stith's message, along with those who are "sometimes ignored by the church," stirring them to be more sensitive to church families dealing with homosexual problems.

"Sometimes we just kind of brush that under the carpet and hope it will go away," King said.

Ross Kilpatrick, pastor of First Church Reeltown in Notasulga, Al., agreed that every person has temptations. "The bottom line is we are all right there, a sinner saved by grace, all of us," Kilpatrick said. "Apart from seeking Christ and His power being made perfect in our weakness and overcoming sin, there is not one of us not vulnerable to sin."

Even as Stith continues to receive hate mail from homosexual activists and pastors alike, his challenge to churches across the nation will not change.

Citing evangelist and author Josh McDowell, Stith said: "If your church is healthy, you'll have drug addicts, sex addicts, unwed mothers, and those kinds of things, and [McDowell] said you will have them because if your church is what it ought to be, God will send them there to be healed. So my

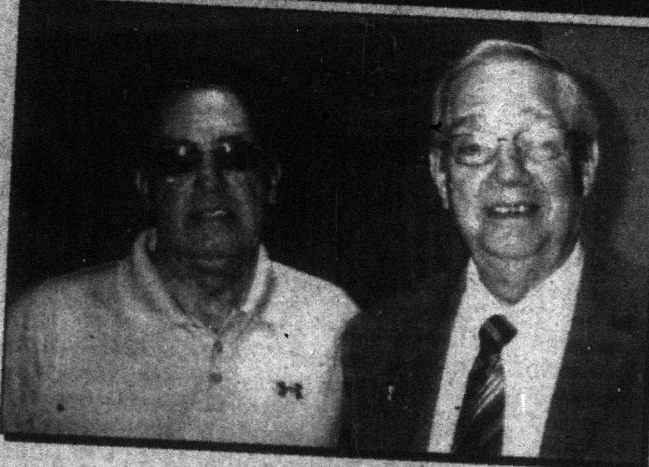
question is, If you don't have that problem, then why not?"

The Southern Baptist Convention has formed the Gender Issues Office to assist those seeking to reach homosexuals.

"We want to help our churches understand how they can be effective in helping men and women who desire to turn away from homosexuality. One way we can do that is to encourage our churches to hold training and educational events. Every city should seek to hold such an event. Every city should have at least one ministry in place to assist the strugglers and their families," according to the office's web site.

Editor's note: For more information and for resources available from the Southern Baptist Convention's Gender Issues Office, visit [www.sbctheawayout.com](http://www.sbctheawayout.com).

## STAFF CHANGES



2. Cockcroft and Magee

1. Stepping Stone Church, Port Gibson, has called Keith Garland as pastor.

2. County Line Church, Dossville, has called Robert Magee as pastor, Nov., 2008. Shown are deacon Morris Cockcroft and Magee.

Visit us online - [www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org)

## COLLEGE NEWS



1. Wallace, Kirchner, and Gatewood

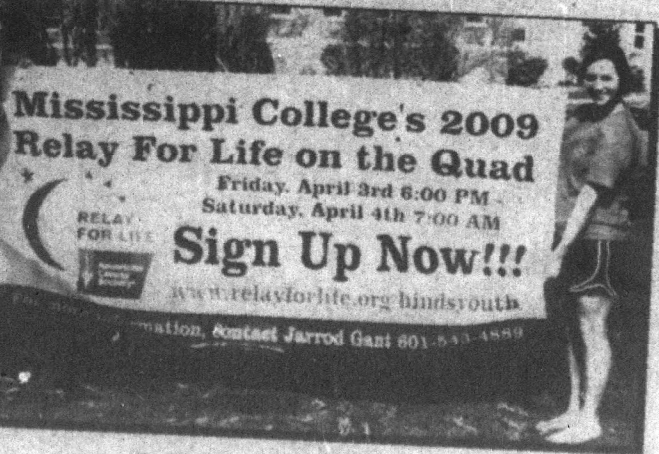
1. Mississippi College resident life staffers Matt Wallace, Beth Kirchner, and Robert Gatewood won first place out of a field of 72 presentations at the conference of the Southeastern Association of Housing Officers in Birmingham recently to help schools do a better job using technology.

2. Prospective students are invited to Preview Day at William Carey University Saturday, March 28 from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. Registration is 8 a.m. until 9 a.m. in Smith Auditorium, followed by a welcome and opening session. For more information about WCU's Preview Day call (601) 318-6104, (800) 962-5991 ext. 103 or visit [www.wmcarey.edu](http://www.wmcarey.edu).

3. Mississippi College equestrian team members Meredith Guider and Sara Mellado picked up more honors during their second season - good enough to qualify for regional competition. The Intercollegiate Horse Show Association's regionals will be March 14 at Sewanee, Tenn. Based at Providence Hill Farm, the six-member MC team is led by interim coach Becky Baumel.

4. The William Carey University Speech and Debate Team placed first overall at the Louisiana State University Annual Tournament and the Tri-State Championships in Bossier City. The LSU tournament pitted Carey against students from the University of Alabama, Louisiana State University, and Central Arkansas University, as well as students from five other universities.

5. Mississippi College's Quad will resemble a track as MC hosts its annual Relay for Life race to benefit the fight against cancer. MC faculty, staff and students begin the race on April 3 at 6 p.m. Shown are volunteers freshmen Kimberly Watts of New Orleans and Cayla Weeks of Madison.



5. Watts and Weeks

## REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. Ford's Creek Church, Poplarville: Revival, Mar. 29 - Apr. 2; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Mon. - Wed., 6 p.m.; Daniel Lee, speaker.

2. Hope Church of Cedar Bluff, Golden Triangle Association: Revival, Mar. 15 - 18; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Dan Robertson, speaker; Terry Veazey, music.

3. Weir Church, Weir: Centennial Celebration, Apr. 25 - 26; Sat. activities include reception, tour of buildings, children's activities, and a concert by One Way quartet; Sun., morning worship with former pastors and families, fellowship dinner, and sharing. For more information, call (662) 547-6986.





# Pastor shot, killed during March 8 worship service

MARYVILLE, IL (BP and local reports) — A Southern Baptist pastor in Illinois was killed during a morning worship service March 8 by a gunman who reportedly suffered from mental illness caused by Lyme disease.

Fred Winters, 45, was preaching in the 8:15 a.m. service with about 150 people in attendance at the St. Louis-area First Church in Maryville, Ill., when the gunman, identified in media reports as 27-year-old Terry Joe Sedlacek, walked down the aisle, exchanged some words with the pastor and opened fire, shooting Winters four times in the chest.

News media reports indicate Sedlacek's first round struck a Bible being held by Winters, scattering pages like confetti. One of the rounds struck Winters in the heart.

When the gunman's .45-caliber semiautomatic handgun jammed, he drew a knife and slashed two church members as they wrestled him to the ground, according to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. The attacker stabbed himself in the neck, and he and one of the church members were in serious condition after surgery. The other injured church member was treated and released.

Winters staggered about halfway down a church aisle before collapsing. He died of his injuries at a local hospital, the newspaper said. He is survived by his wife Cindy and daughters Alysia, 14, and Cassidy, 12.

"In this day, where uncertainty seems to abound, creating an environment in which people are vulnerable in doing things they might not do otherwise, one thing is certain, we, as human beings need a foundation upon which we can live our lives," a statement posted on the church's website said.

"We at First Baptist Maryville, along with other Christian believers, share this conviction: that foundation is God's Word. In the pages of the Book we call the Bible, we find the pathway for peace, hope, and a quality of living life despite what circumstances we find ourselves in."

the statement, which also requested prayer, said.

A graduate of two Southern Baptist seminaries, Winters served as a two-time president of the Illinois Baptist State Association beginning in 2006 and served on the Southern Baptist Convention Committee on Committees in 2004.

His church has been one of the top Cooperative Program supporting churches in Illinois, giving nearly a quarter of a million dollars last year.

In 1987 when Winters began as pastor, the church averaged 30 in attendance and has since grown to more than 1,200 members. The church, with a 500-seat worship center, sits on a rural road in a growing community.

The Post-Dispatch ran an article in August 2008 about Sedlacek's struggle with Lyme disease, which he supposedly contracted from a tick bite after spending time on a family farm in the late '90s. He had taken several medications that did little to help combat the effects, and in 2003 he nearly died from the disease.

The newspaper noted that Sedlacek suffered from lesions on his brain related to the illness.

The Post-Dispatch reported that Sedlacek, who had no prior criminal record, was charged March 9 with murder and aggravated battery. Detectives had not identified any connection between the gunman and the pastor other than Sedlacek had some friends who attended the church.



**GUNNED DOWN** — Fred Winters, pastor of First Church in Maryville, Ill., who was shot to death in the pulpit of the church during a worship service on March 8, is shown in this recent photo with wife Cindy and daughters Alysia, 14, and Cassidy, 12. (BP photo)

Nate Adams, executive director of the Illinois Baptist State Association, expressed sentiments on behalf of thousands of Illinois Baptists who knew Winters from the leadership positions he held in the state convention.

"Our hearts and prayers go out to Fred's family and the church family during this time of great grief and loss. He was a wonderful, gifted, leading pastor in Illinois and a dear friend. His ministry and mentorship will be missed sorely by so many."

"Of course our great God is not surprised by this, or anything. That He allows evil and free will to have their way in tragedies like this is a mystery in many ways," Adams said. "But we know we can trust Him no matter what and draw close to Him in any circumstance. Let's draw closer to Him and to one another during this terrible tragedy and renew our faith and obedience to His purposes for however many days we have remaining to serve Him."

Kevin Kerr, president of the Illinois Baptist State Association and pastor of First Church, Machesney Park, said Winters had been a friend for 25 years.

"I'm most concerned for his family and for the church family. This changes their whole world and everything that is familiar to them," Kerr said. "This tragedy also makes every pastor think about how easily they could be a victim of the same senseless type of tragedy. I think many church members don't realize how vulnerable pastors and their families are."

"Churches by their very nature must be open and inviting to those we are attempting to minister to," Kerr said. "We can't build walls around the church and lock out the very people we are called to reach. Churches, generally, take seriously the safety of children in our care but probably need to think more about other areas of security."

## JUST FOR THE RECORD

1. The Chapel Chimers of **Bradford Chapel, Calhoun County**, use their new chimes in the worship service.
2. **Immanuel Church, Cleveland**, dedicated a children's chapel Feb. 15. The children led the church in an entire worship service of music, scriptures, and prayer. Shown are the participants.
3. The wMu of **Lawrence Church, Lawrence**, displayed 32 crosses to signify the abortions in Mississippi every day.
4. **Cedar View Church, Olive Branch**, is hosting a community singing Mar. 15, 6 p.m., featuring the Turner Family bluegrass group.



1. Bradford Chapel



2. Immanuel Church

## Additional churches involved in recent disaster relief response

In addition to the churches and associations responding to the disaster in Kentucky reported in last week's Baptist Record, the following churches and associations responded to the same ice storm disaster in Arkansas: Mid-Delta Association, Yalobusha Association, Pearl River/Rankin Association, Pontotoc Association, and Pilgrims Rest Church. This represents 37 volunteers.

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## BIBLE

By Arthur Story

In our study we've already critical elements serve God. We our need to "Be opportunities H our need to used by Him. look at a third c to Stepping Up commitment n the face of oppo Whenever w God resistance occur. Not ev pleased about using us to c opposition con remember, "D How do we do we remain st face of oppo week's lesson provides us w dational com believer can

## EXP AC

By Beth S. Bov

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The Baptist news and pho that take place the Mississippi News subm Baptist Record ten, (b) neatly paper, or (c) n forms provided cles must be r will be accepte News may to the address tained in the mail form. Due no text attac Photograph at



## BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

## Don't Despair

Nehemiah 2:19-20; 4:1-14

## Our Story

Our study of Nehemiah already looked at two elements in our ability to God. We've examined the "Be Aware" of the realities He presents and the "Prepare" to be of Him. This week we add a third crucial ingredient: **Stand Up to Serve**; the element not to despair in the face of opposition. Never we seek to serve, assistance is bound to come. Not everyone will be about what God is us to do. So, when opposition comes we need to stand, "Don't Despair." How do we do this? How do we remain steadfast in the face of opposition? This lesson from Nehemiah gives us with three foundational commitments every one can make that will

enable him/her to persevere in the face of opposition.

## Maintain Confidence in God (Neh. 2:19-20)

The opposition to the rebuilding of the wall started before Nehemiah and the people ever began their work on the wall. Sanballat and Tobiah were displeased by the fact that someone was seeking "the well-being of the Israelites" (Neh. 2:10). As a result, when Nehemiah begins leading the people in the work of rebuilding the wall, Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem are openly hostile. They mock the people and seek to intimidate them to stop the work. They attempt to stir the people to doubt by leading them to question the king's approval of the work (2:19).

Nehemiah responds to this situation in an unwavering manner. He doesn't put his confidence in himself. He



## Story

direct result of God.

Like Nehemiah, we need to maintain confidence in God when facing opposition in serving Him.

## Ask God for Help (Neh. 4:1-6)

The opposition intensifies after Nehemiah and the people begin their work on the wall. Sanballat and Tobiah are angry about the construction. They labor to turn their peers against the Jews' rebuilding project and at the same time discourage the Jews. In the face of this increasing opposition, Nehemiah responds in the correct manner. Nehemiah takes the situation before God. He talks to God about everything that is occurring. Nehemiah petitions God to judge their opponents. He also makes it a point to talk to God about the attitude of the

builders in the face of this opposition (Neh. 4:5). He knows that a change in the builders' focus will adversely affect the work. After taking the situation to God and seeking His help, Nehemiah and the people work together to rebuild the wall to half its original height.

Like Nehemiah, we need to turn to God for help when facing intense opposition. We should talk through the situation with Him and ask Him to deal with our enemies rather than responding ourselves. In addition, we should quickly return to our work once we've given the situation to God.

## Take Reasonable Precautions (Neh. 4:7-14)

Now that the rebuilding of the wall is moving along nicely, the opposition really intensifies. "Sanballat, Tobiah, and the Arabs, Ammonites, and Ashdodites" become furious (Neh. 4:7). They become so enraged that they no longer simply speak against the work. Now they plot together to stop the work.

In response to this growing threat the people take time to pray. In addition, they take simple yet strategic precau-

tions. They station guards day and night. They position people to defend the lowest sections of the wall which are the most likely places of attack. Nehemiah makes an excellent leadership decision and points the people's attention away from the threat. Instead, he directs the people to focus on God and their need to fight for their families and peers.

In the end, the tough talk and plans of the Jews' enemies turn out to be nothing as the precautions taken by the Jews thwart the efforts of their opponents. The people can now return to rebuilding the wall. As a precautionary measure, the people now remain armed and ready to fight any opposition that might come while they are doing their work.

In light of this example from Nehemiah, how will you respond the next time opposition comes? Will you despair or will you persevere? If you want to persevere like Nehemiah did, maintain confidence in God, ask Him for help, and take reasonable precautions.

*Story is Minister of Education, First Church, Louisville.*

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

## Act on Revealed Truth

Isaiah 7:1-14, 16

## S. Bowman

Something is missing in my house, chances are in the one who has misplaced it. I have a hard time getting up with stuff: my purse, my phone, my keys, even my children! I misplaced several things in our lesson. Unfortunately for Ahaz, the things he lost were not replaceable. He missed many things from the Lord.

## Check for Misplaced Focus (Isaiah 7:1-2)

Leaders of Israel intended to replace Ahaz with a puppet king who would lead their alliance against Assyria, the ascending power in the region. Rather than trusting toward the Lord God for rescue, Ahaz focused on what might happen if these

two powers successfully teamed up. The end of verse 2 states, "The heart of Ahaz and the hearts of his people trembles like trees of a forest shaking in a wind." (HCSB) His misplaced focus ended up leading his people to do the same. Matthew Henry wrote, "Faith is absolutely necessary to quiet and compose the mind in trials". It should be our faith that controls our focus.

## 2. Check for Misplaced Confidence (Isaiah 7:3-9)

God told Isaiah to take his son, Shear-jashub, with him to meet King Ahaz to give him the Lord's message. Shear-jashub's name means, "a remnant shall escape." I think the Lord was giving Ahaz a message by sending Isaiah's son to the meeting. The message to Ahaz repeatedly is that the



## Bowman

Lord wants to rescue him and help him. The Lord goes on in vs. 7-9 to explain that the conquering of Judah would not occur. In verse 9, the Lord God said to Ahaz, "if you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all." God knows when we stand firm in our faith; we take action based on that. Ahaz's actions were opposite those of people who place their faith in God.

## 3. Check for Missing Integrity (Isaiah 7:10-12)

What sane person calls on their enemies for help during times of trouble? Ahaz did. Although these verses do not fully explain what Ahaz was doing, in the background passages we realize that Ahaz had decided to put his trust in Assyria for help and protection. When the Lord spoke to him and encourages him to ask for a sign, he refused to do so. His actions spoke louder than his words. He even

falsely testified to the Lord that "I will not test the Lord." His words belied what his real intent was. He was not against testing the Lord; he was against trusting the Lord. His outer countenance might have been respectful but in his heart, he despised God. Do we ever say we are placing our faith in God but our inner heart and thoughts are in direct contrast? Ahaz lacked integrity "being complete and undivided" since his lips said one thing but his actions were the opposite.

## 4. Check for Misplaced Faith (Isaiah 7:13-14,16)

Isaiah was fed up with Ahaz and his refusal to cooperate. I can certainly understand why. Isaiah the prophet was clearly invested in the life of Ahaz. Ahaz was given direction, advice and wisdom. Still he wanted to place his faith in men, rather than in God.

In verse 14, Isaiah gives us a verse that is quoted in Matthew 1:23. Virtually all Bible scholars believe the prophecy in 7:14 refers to the

birth of Jesus by the virgin Mary. Some hold that Isaiah had the Messiah and only Him in mind. Some others think the prophecy had an initial application in Isaiah's time and an ultimate fulfillment at Jesus' birth.

I waste time when I lose things and have to look for them. If I would just put things in a set place, they would be there when I returned. Our faith can be like that—very uncomplicated. God is Who He says He is and He is going to do what He says He will. We can trust that. We can know that. We shouldn't spend our time and energy placing our faith and trust in people, things and situations that are constantly changing and will not bring the hope and peace that God, through Jesus Christ does. I love how the writer of Hebrews expressed it in 13:8, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever."

*Bowman is Minister of Connection, First Church, Brandon.*

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized paper provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail. Due to increasing virus threats, text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.



Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

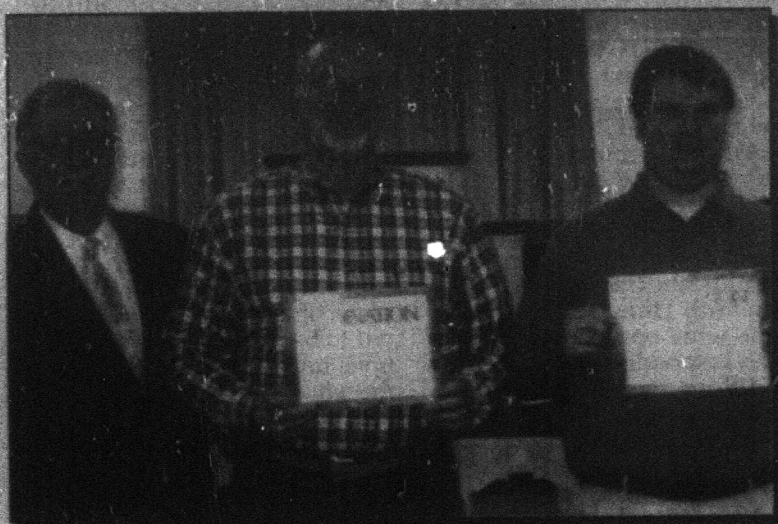
All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Deacon ordination, Simmons Memorial Church



2. North Carrollton Church



3. Bolivia missionaries



4. First Church, Hazlehurst



1. Simmons Memorial Church, Flora, ordained Larry Douglas and Adam Gaines as deacons Feb. 22. Shown are pastor Wilson Bishop, Douglas, and Gaines.

2. The GAs of North Carrollton Church, North Carrollton, are shown wearing ponchos they made during their study on Venezuela.

3. Several individuals participated in a mission trip to the jungles of northeast Bolivia to the Guarayo Indians. Shown, back row, are Chad Yaroborough, Gordon Coker, and Katie Reid, Friendship Church, Brookhaven; O.H. Swayze, Harlands Creek Church, Coxberg and Sandra Geter, Bude Church, Bude, front row.

4. The homebound ministry and GAs of First Church, Hazlehurst, made valentines to distribute to the residents of Pine Crest Guest Home Feb. 14. Shown are the participants.

5. Concord Church, Booneville, selected Billy Tigrett as man of the year at their Baptist Men's Day. Shown, from left, are Kane Tigrett, Linda Tigrett, and Tigrett.

6. The youth and leaders of Lakeside Church, Hattiesburg, hosted a Valentine banquet Feb. 13. The movie, Fireproof, was shown to the 90 to 95 people attending. Shown are the participants.

7. The GAs of Macedonia Church, Lincoln County, were involved in a children's ministry day Feb. 21. The girls learned about baby wellness, collected baby supplies, and made cards for the Blair E. Batson Hospital. Shown are the participants.

8. Pastor John Miles, of Parkway Church, Morton, challenged the church to exceed their Lottie Moon Christmas offering goal. Miles agreed to paint his head if the church exceeded their goal. Shown is Miles after the goal was surpassed.

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5. The Tigretts



6. Lakeside Church



7. Macedonia Church



8. Miles, Parkway Church